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CHILE, BOLIVIA, PERU TO MEET ON SEA OUTLET ISSUE

PY202148Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2140 GMT 20 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Arica, Chile, 20 Mar--According to reports released here today, Peruvian Prime Minister Gen Oscar Molina has announced that Bolivia has been invited to a tripartite meeting with Chile and Peru to seek a solution for its landlocked situation.

The prime minister made this statement at the end of the talks he held in the border city of Arica with Chilean Defense Minister Gen Hermann Brady.

General Molina indicated that the tripartite meeting will take place in April and that it will be attended by high-ranking Chilean, Peruvian and Bolivian officers.

At the same time the Peruvian prime minister lamented Bolivia's decision to break off relations with Chile.

BEAGLE COMMISSION REQUESTS DELAY OF REPORT

PY2018COY Buenos Aires Radio El Mundo in Spanish 1500 GMT 20 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpts] The military junta today heard a number of reports on foreign policy. Major General Apella referred to the results of the second round of meetings of the Argentine-Chilean commission regarding southern border limits. Regarding these negotiations, both delegations have agreed to postpone the date to present their report. This postponement would be for 45 days. Thus, they would present their report during the second half of May. The second commission as established by the Argentine and Chilean presidents should have begun negotiations by then.

HERALD ASSESSES TRIPARTITE MEETING IN ASUNCION

PY2020411Y Buenos Aires HERALD in English 19 Mar 78 p 10 PY

[Editorial: "Trilateral Commonsense"]

[Text] Last week's meeting between Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay on the use of the waters of the Parana for hydroelectric projects appears to have brought all three governments closer together. The fact that none of the three countries involved is hailing the outcome of the negotiations as a success could not be more heartening. The rational exploitation of the great waterway depends on cooperation between the countries concerned. If one country emerges from the negotiations with the feeling that it has "won" something, it means that the other countries will feel that they have "lost." The talks in Asuncion ended on just the right note. The communique issued on Wednesday was framed in diplomatic language; but the emphasis placed on the fact that "the representatives of the three countries debated and analyzed the problems...in a climate of permanent cordiality and respect" indicates a degree of shared optimism about reaching an agreement that goes beyond original expectations. Reason, it seems, is prevailing in regard to Brazil.

The specific question at issue in the recent talks was the height of the proposed Argentine-Paraguay Corpus complex. Originally, Brazil showed great reluctance to even discuss the matter. The Brazilian press has reported regularly that Argentina has been about to scrap the plans for Corpus. This wishful thinking has not helped establish a climate for meaningful discussion. Brazil clearly has an advantage in that the huge Itaipu complex is a reality and that Corpus is still a dream. But Corpus is important to Paraguay, which seeks as much revenue from its only major natural resource (hydro-electricity), as possible. Brazil, therefore, must--however grudgingly--negotiate an agreement which will take into consideration Argentina's interests, as well as those of its partner in hydro-electric generation, Paraguay. The Brazilian representatives do seem to have decided to assume that Corpus will be a reality and negotiate accordingly. Argentina is seeking a height of 110 metres for the Corpus Dam. Brazil's initial response was to push for 102 metres. Reports after the talks ended on Wednesday indicate that Brazil is now talking about a height of 105 metres. This is progress.

Commonsense is on Argentina's side in the talks. From the start the Argentine position has been both reasonable and sensible. This country has accepted the fact that the existence of Itaipu conditions all the hydro-electric projects planned for the Parana. Argentina has sought a compromise agreement on Corpus. It seems that Brazil has seen sense and will agree on a reasonable figure for the height of the Corpus Dam.

Argentina does have an Achilles heel, however. The Paraguayans still doubt Argentina's determination to go ahead with Corpus. They are still pointing to Yacireta, a project that was in the pipeline for 25 years and still has financing problems. Steps must be taken that will convince Brazil and Paraguay that Corpus will be built. The equitable use of the waters of the Parana, and the establishment of machinery for regular consultation among the countries involved, is in the interest of everyone. Last week's talks mark a small, but significant, step in the right direction. Brazil no longer has everything her own way on the Parana. Argentina, thanks to its newly reestablished stability and steady economic recovery, is exerting its rightful power again and--as the Paraguayans must realize--acting as a stabilizing influence in the area.

HERALD SEES BOLIVIA SUFFERING FROM U.S. TIN DUMPING

PY202047Y Buenos Aires HERALD in English 20 Mar 78 p 8 PY

[Editorial: "Tin Bomb"]

[Text] As far as most U.S. citizens are concerned, the decision by the Carter administration to sell off 50,000 tons of tin from the U.S. strategic reserves is a very minor matter, of purely technical interest. For Bolivians, however, it is ominous news. They know that unloading this large amount onto the world market will depress the price of tin, and that Bolivia's high-cost mining industry is in no shape to ride a price slump.

Despite frantic appeals from Bolivians, including a personal letter from President Hugo Banzer to President Jimmy Carter, the U.S. authorities have refused to cancel plans. The reaction in Bolivia, a country whose government has kept on fairly good terms with Washington in recent years, is an upsurge of old-style anti-Americanism that could quickly prove uncontrollable. Already government officials are accusing the U.S. of "economic aggression" and, in a series of contrived arguments reflecting despair rather than a capacity for rational thought, are accusing the U.S. of violating their human rights.

What seem like tiny ripples from the standpoint of a vast and varied economy like that of the U.S. can look like tidal waves from a miniscule economy like Bolivia's so it is not surprising that the U.S. Government should appear callous to Bolivians and Bolivians hysterical to the U.S. Nevertheless, the indifference in Washington to Bolivia's plight is surprising, especially as the current U.S. administration is making an effort to persuade the peoples of Latin America that it really cares about their problems. For Bolivians, the price of tin is a very big problem indeed, and the casual way in which the U.S. seems prepared to depress it is not calculated to win the Carter administration many friends in Latin America. On the contrary, it brings to mind old caricartures of cruel capitalists who preach morality while paying starvation wages.

Neither the U.S. nor any other country is under any obligation to keep any commodity price artificially high. But an effort should be made to prevent wild upward or downward swings that cause recessions in the industrialized nations or descents into desperate penury in the rest. Moreover, care should be taken not to cause grave difficulties for small, friendly nations that have done nothing in recent years to harm any U.S. or other Western interest.

For Bolivians, whatever happens, this event is a bleak reminder that any nation that depends too much on one volatile commodity is in permanent danger of seeing its main economic prop knocked away. In the last seven years the Bolivians have made some headway in diversifying their economy, but nowhere near enough for it to shrug off a steep fall in the price of tin. Until they do, they will be vulnerable to decisions made without much thought for their interests in Washington or elsewhere. They deserve special consideration, but the world being what it is they are unlikely to get it.

SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE CHIEF ARRIVES FOR VISIT

PY181437Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2230 GMT 17 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Mar--The commander of the South African Air Force, Lt Gen Robert H.D. Rogers, arrived in the country this afternoon at the special invitation by the Argentine Air Force. He arrived at 1630 at Ezeiza International Airport in the company of his wife. On arrival he boarded a helicopter which flew him to the Jorge Newberry Metropolitan Airport where he was met by the Argentine Air Force commander, Lt Gen Orlando Ramon Agosti.

Later, at 1930, Rogers met with Agosti during a special audience at the latter's office in the Condor Building and, concluding the day's official activities, both air force chiefs, their wives and the entourages accompanying them participated in a banquet at the residence in Ezeiza.

FOUR PERSONS RELEASED; NO NEW ARRESTS REPORTED

PY181330Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1040 GMT 18 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 18 Mar--The Interior Ministry reported yesterday that four persons have been released from custody of the executive branch between 10 and 17 February and one person has been authorized to leave the country. It was also reported that during the last week no person or persons were arrested and placed at the disposal of the executive branch.

BRIEFS

AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL--Buenos Aires, 15 Mar--Argentina and Israel signed a technical and economic agreement today. The agreement includes a irrigation program, the conversion of sea water into fresh water, electronics, pharmacology and the exchange of technicians and experts for industry. A mixed economic commission aimed at encouraging trade and technological and industrial cooperation was also created. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0214 GMT 15 Mar 78 PY]

BOMB ATTEMPT--Buenos Aires, 15 Mar--Police sources reported that unknown persons placed an explosive device in the theater of the Argentine Hebrew Society which exploded causing damage. There were no victims. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0433 GMT 16 Mar 78 PY]

POLITICAL PARTIES SUPPORT SEVERING OF RELATIONS WITH CHILE

PY201929Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1734 GMT 20 Mar 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 20 Mar--The Bolivian Armed Forces today paid homage at the La Paz General Cemetery to the military men who died as national heroes during the 1879 Pacific war.

The high command attached special significance to the ceremony held this morning as a part of the Week of the Sea celebration, 99 years after Bolivia lost its coast after the war with Chile. Thousands of Bolivian flags at half mast and black mourning signs were seen throughout the country as a symbol of Bolivians' "desire to return to the sea."

All political parties supported the severing of diplomatic relations with Chile, although the pro-Marxist parties criticized the government's attitude in resuming relations after the "Charana embrace" between Presidents Hugo Banzer and Augusto Pinochet on 8 February 1975.

It was indicated in La Paz today that the 17 March government decision followed a large number of meetings between President Banzer and the officers of the military garrisons throughout the country. It was added that Banzer had firm support for the decision.

On 23 March 1978, the 99th anniversary of the beginning of the Chilean-Bolivian war, civic rallies will be held in the entire country.

The Bolivian press today reproduced reports from Santiago, Chile, revealing the reaction of the Chilean press to the breaking of relations. Most of the newspapers, however, did not deal with the issue in editorials but just gave extensive factual reports. It was learned today that all editions of all newspapers were sold out on 18 March, the day after the government decided to break relations with Chile.

Many Bolivians who had planned to travel to Chile canceled their trips after the news was released, several travel agencies confirmed. Scheduled official technical and exchange visits are being reviewed. The railway enterprise reported, however, that tickets for the Arica-La Paz and Oruro-Antofagasta lines were sold as usual after the measure was taken.

Government officials are reviewing the status of Chilean citizens who are in Bolivia without the necessary legal papers, but there was no report of any official measure in this regard.

Causes of Break Analyzed

PY180239Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 17 Mar 78 PY

[Text] The breaking of relations with Chile, unexpectedly approved by President Banzer's government, was interpreted by press and political circles in this capital as the result of the intense internal pressures [words indistinct].

The government's decision to break relations with Chile is contrary to the position of the official presidential candidate, Gen Juan Pereda, who expressed his opposition to the breaking of relations with Chile in a statement published this morning by the local papers.

The breaking of relations takes place at a time when the opposing political parties and the union organizations were planning a massive popular rally on 26 March, the Day of the Sea, in support of the national maritime aspirations.

This station received many telephone calls in 1975 requesting more information on the decision made by General Banzer's government to reestablish diplomatic relations with Chile from persons who considered Chile a natural enemy of Bolivia. Bolivian analysts, professionals and workers protested the reestablishment of relations with Chile, first because the decision was made without consulting the people and second because the Chilean military government had not guaranteed to provide a positive solution to the dearest wish of the Bolivian people, which is a return to the Pacific Ocean through a sovereign corridor.

When Chile reestablished diplomatic relations with Bolivia, Pinochet's government ignored the Peruvian Government's (?rights). Like Bolivia, Peru was a victim of Chilean expansionist plans. Also, diplomatic relations were renewed on the basis of a territorial exchange, which from the beginning was criticized and condemned by national public opinion.

Three years have passed since the reestablishment of diplomatic relations. During this time, the only country which has received benefits was Chile, primarily because from February 1975 on, Chile was able to break, through a tacit alliance with the Bolivian Government, an international blockade imposed on Chile as a result of the political crimes committed by the military junta after the bloody overthrow of the Allende regime.

Chile then also reopened a beneficial trade channel as well as an open territory for its [word indistinct] which was later regarded as a new, peaceful Chilean invasion. The trade benefited only the Chilean economy.

Bolivia then continued to suffer from Chile's despotic policies. Thousands of Bolivian citizens were expelled from Arica and Antofagasta in cattle cars. The prices and tariffs for the use of Chilean ports continued to increase [words indistinct].

The breaking of relations with Chile is considered by political observers here as the government's tacit admittance of its complete failure in conducting its maritime policy.

PERADA ASBUN INTERVIEWED ON ELECTIONS, POLITICAL PROGRAM

PY172052Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2010 GMT 16 Mar 78 PY

[By Eduardo Perez Iribarne]

[Text] La Paz, 16 Mar--In an exclusive interview granted to AFP, Gen Juan Pereda Asbun, official candidate for the coming elections, stated here today that once the 9 July elections are over "the armed forces will have to return to the functions that are established for them by the constitution."

But he added that "should I be the winner at the coming elections, the armed forces will be represented in my cabinet because the defense minister will be a military officer and my military comrades will be put in charge of key national security positions."

Pereda reasserted his charges against international economic enterprises whose only aim is to get rich quickly at the expense of nations which produce raw materials, stating that "An example of this attitude is the dumping of 50,000 tons of tin from the U.S. surplus stock."

When discussing the domestic economic situation, Pereda Asbun denied the possibility of "another devaluation."

He stated that "even though the Bolivian economic situation is not the best, due to our dependency on other countries, our economy is totally under control and we will not resort to devaluation."

Pereda stated that "The trust of our people and the international credit rating we have achieved support the stability of the Bolivian peso."

He disregarded the possibility of creating a coalition government with opposition parties. He stated that "Should I win the elections, we will form the government with the strong nationalist political forces which today make up the People's Nationalist Union [UNP]."

He indicated that "Our constitution gives political opposition a direct participation, that is to say, the minority parties have a quite significant participation in Congress, approximately 30 percent."

He reasserted that "We are seeking a democracy in which all democratic sectors of the country could participate by submitting ideas and projects for the consideration of the Bolivian people."

Asked about former President Hernan Siles Zuazo's statements regarding "possible fraud at the coming elections," Pereda stressed that "The national electoral court must fulfill its mission of guaranteeing the straightforwardness of the electoral process." Pereda added that "Our electoral law is the instrument through which the 1966 general elections were implemented." He pointed out that "Before starting to speak of electoral fraud, one should take care to be able to prove it."

Pereda indicated that the UNP, the political group which is supporting him in the coming election, is keeping its doors open to positive contacts with "truly nationalist" political parties.

In discussing his relations with the armed forces, Pereda indicated that he has the support of his comrades, that his relations with commanding generals, officers, noncommissioned officers and privates were cordial and that he holds periodic talks with all of them during his campaign trips.

In regard to the launching of his electoral campaign in the mining districts, Pereda indicated that "So far we have restricted our campaign to cities and farmlands. However, we will soon begin our tour through the mining districts to tell the workers about our program and our projects to solve their problems." He added: "We cannot promise solutions which we may find ourselves unable to carry out. Our people are tired of unfulfilled political promises."

He stated that "The selection of a vice president will come later."

He indicated that "The Bolivian people are convinced of the need to pursue the plan created by the armed forces, because this plan has brought peace and stability to the country."

Pereda emphasized that "Our democratic system is a guarantee for the improvement of the current political system and for bringing greatness to the Bolivian people."

In response to a question about his points of agreement with President Banzer's regime, Pereda indicated that "one government can never be identical to another, nor can the circumstances which surround it be the same as those which surrounded its predecessor. That is why our political program has its own meaning."

JORNAL QUESTIONS POLICY OF DRIFT AWAY FROM U.S.

PY172157Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 16 Mar 78 p 10 PY

[Editorial: "Toward the Unknown"]

[Text] Accumulated facts and evidence demonstrate that the government has been daringly modifying the country's foreign alliances.

Until recently it was clear only that our foreign policy, pursuant to the purpose of fostering national development, was taking advantage of natural contradictions existing in the Western world. By finding or opening new gaps among conflicting nations in the world, Brazil was strengthening its negotiating capability and was expanding both the sources and the amounts of incoming foreign resources. This was and still is a valid strategy, whose wisdom is based on the notion that a country will never achieve development if it is unable to move from its position of passive acceptance to that of actively making world decisions.

Accumulated facts and evidence show, however, that as a result of going beyond the prudent limits of this strategy, the country has moved toward geopolitically risky positions. The policy both in the economic and political sectors now seems to be to systematically replace U.S. factors with West European factors, developing convoluted ways of bypassing the American world to discover partners in distant areas.

In our economic relations with the world, especially regarding industrial technology, Brazil gives preference to anything which could mean opposition to the United States. This preference sometimes shows up as a matter of principle, and not rarely deals are concluded with European enterprises after they have been started with U.S. enterprises. The following is the most recent example of this: Before the U.S. enterprise Elliott was able to reply to Brazilian requirements for the transfer of technology, it was announced that the project for making steam turbines would be executed with the European enterprise Siemens.

Whether in this case or any other, the question is not of regretting making deals with Europe. Brazilian-West European economic relations, which have expanded remarkably in recent years, fulfill extremely important national interests at this very moment when the most difficult stages of our development are being overcome.

What is regrettable is the a priori and consequently ideological nature of this preference [toward Western Europe], because this is contrary to national interests. We also regret the equivocal nature which this preference has been assuming, inasmuch as economic motives are being superseded by geopolitical motives which are not in keeping with our clear-cut historical development. We must thoroughly explore our opportunities with Europe, but we must not make our deals with the Europeans excluding the Americans as a matter of principle.

A priori exclusions can be harmful because they can undermine the very policy of expanding foreign economic relations by restricting the field of negotiations and by provoking retaliations of unpredictable proportions at times in which our country cannot let any offers of foreign aid go by.

As to politics, there are other facts and evidence which indicate the growing anti-Americanism which the Brazilian Government has brought into its actions, using it to justify the change in the country's foreign alliances. The joint communique signed at the end of President Geisel's visit to the FRG deliberately discredited the nonproliferation treaty--NPT--and neglected the U.S. human rights policy, by proposing that the United Nations be acknowledged as the appropriate forum where the issue would be discussed.

It should be noted that although both countries undertook the commitments stated in the communique, the fact is that these commitments are basically of Brazilian origin.

With regard to human rights, the communique mentioned only the Brazilian position, because the West Germans never questioned Carter's leadership in defense of human rights. On the contrary, the West Germans have always supported him because they consider human rights an anti-Soviet weapon which adds strength to FRG security demands. Yet, it would not have been difficult for the West Germans to give indirect support to Brazil's policy which, in the specific case of the clause included in the communique, is restricted to South American alone and to the Brazilian Government's desire of outlining President Carter's agenda in Brasilia in advance.

Regarding the NPT, Bonn's joint communique does no harm to FRG credibility in the light of the world's fears that the atom may be used for military purposes. The FRG is in fact a signatory of that treaty. Therefore, the FRG has just accepted the strange and untimely Brazilian concern--a concern which is implicit in the joint communique--for Europe's security, and at the same time has stood by Brazil's unwillingness to commit itself to nuclear nonproliferation in the strategic Latin American area. Concern over the acquisition of nuclear power by Latin American armies is not a major European concern. Despite the worldwide importance of this question, that concern is mainly restricted to the American world. On the contrary, the increase of misunderstandings and clashes in the American world may turn out to be useful to the Europeans in the worldwide race to capture areas for the expansion of capitalism.

In the risky switch of the country's international loyalties, those responsible for the positions of Brazilian foreign policy did not take time to realize the incurable disparity between Brazil's and the FRG's thinking processes. The West Germans know that Brazil is a very important partner, perhaps the most important in the Third World, but the center of their foreign relations remains focused on the North Atlantic. Now, if in conducting the special Brazilian-FRG relationship, the FRG does not set aside its relations with West Europe and the United States, why should this special relationship mean that Brazil must implement a policy of confrontation with the United States?

Pointing out incongruities of that type recently, the FRG political scientist Wolf Grabendorf observed that, from the political point of view, the FRG is strongly dependent on the United States in many sectors, "much more so than many Third World countries." Grabendorf points out aspects which, despite being glaringly obvious, went unnoticed in the eyes of the Brazilian diplomats. He said: "I believe that Brazil is seeking partners which could offer opportunities similar to those of the United States in the fields of technology and capital. This is why Brazil, some time ago, sought out Japan on one side and the FRG on the other. These are undoubtedly powerful partners in the technology sector but they carry no political weight. I consider this search to be legitimate, but I am afraid that the Brazilians are expecting too much from the FRG."

Grabenauer is cautious. Certainly he would have been much more impressed if he had been--which would have been easy for him--that Brazil is switching its foreign alliances on a scale far more daring than he could suppose. We are focusing our strategic interest on Europe, neglecting the United States at a time when not even the West Germans could or would do it. Certainly we are heading toward a vacuum, because we would be abandoning the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty [TIAR]--would we really abandon the TIAR?--without getting NATO's protection, or would that geopolitical switch [from America to Europe] be stretched even farther, to seek the protective umbrella of the Warsaw Pact?

There seems to have been a constant undercurrent--sometimes of doubt and sometimes of self-imposed cultural inferiority--at the heart of Brazilian foreign policy in recent years. Some time ago, our foreign policy gave priority to geographical proximity and began to take the first steps toward a continental policy. Somewhat ashamed of being South Americans, or feeling incapable of creating a useful system of coexistence with our own neighbors, we dropped that initiative and began to look toward Africa. But Africa did not turn out right, as it could not turn out right, because it is difficult to implement an equitable trade. With the same eagerness we showed toward Africa, we now turn toward Europe through a strategy which has no room for the special relations we have developed with the United States. If nothing is done without reason and with naivete, and if, to a large extent, Brazil's foreign policy is affected by the process of state participation in the economy of the country and by the ideological bases of such participation, what then, will be the foreign loyalties to which the government is really seeking to commit us?

TEN JAILED IN CURITIBA FOR SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES

PY202351Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Mar 78 p 5 PY

[Excerpts] Curitiba--The federal police arrested 10 persons yesterday on charges of having violated the national security law. In accordance with a communique released by the police, these persons--among whom are professors, journalists, sociologists and economists--were reportedly using two elementary schools of Curitiba for meetings and for subversive indoctrination of children.

According to relatives of the detainees, the list includes the following persons: Luis Alberto Manfredini, a local reporter of JORNAL DO BRASIL; Edesio Franco Passos, a lawyer specializing in labor cases; Reinoldo Apen, a publicist, writer and poet; Sueli Muniz Ape, an economist; Maria Bernardete sa Brito, a sociologist; Leo Kessel, a math professor; Valmor Marcelino, a journalist; Silvia Mendoza, a teacher; Ligia Mendonca, a sociologist; and Ana Lage, a sociologist. The latter two are officials of the Parana Socioeconomic Research Institute, a foundation which is linked to the State Planning Secretariat.

MDB, ARENA DEPUTIES ARGUE OVER CURITIBA ARRESTS

PY210144Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Mar 78 PY

[From the "Congressional Report"]

[Text] Speaking in the name of the MDB [Brasilian Democratic Movement] leadership, Deputy Magnus Guimaraes [MDB--Rio Grande do Sul State] today protested the arrests made recently in Curitiba, involving primarily journalists of that capital. He also charged that a woman professor was kidnaped during the police raid, a fact which added to the climate of insecurity and tension prevailing throughout Parana State.

Guimaraes quoted letters of protest issued by entities of journalists and writers, noting that actions of this nature are in violation of the principles of freedom and respect for the laws defended by the Brazilian people.

Speaking in the name of the ARENA [National Renewal Alliance] leadership, Deputy Augusto Trein [Rio Grande do Sul State] stated that the arrests were made strictly in accordance with the appropiate laws [passage indistinct]

Trein added that the police cannot be blamed for the kidnaping of a professor, because it has its own legal means of complying with its duties. He noted that other similar events will be deliberately staged in Brazil prior to President Carter's visit, with the purpose of creating a climate of provocation and distortions which can only be favorable to extremist factions.

FOREIGN MINISTER CONCEDES PARANA TALKS MAY FAIL

PY210138Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2323 GMT 20 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 20 Mar--Foreign Minister Antonio Azeredo da Silveira admitted here today that there is a possibility of an eventual failure of the negotiations with Argentina and Paraguay concerning an accord on the River Parana's hydroelectric dams. In remarks to a group of reporters, in his office in the Itamaraty Palace, Azeredo da Silveira nevertheless made it clear that he believes agreement will be reached in the negotiations which the three countries are carrying out in the so-called tripartite meetings.

He also indicated that to reach an agreement with Argentina and Paraguay is "a challenge for me." The foreign minister said: "I understand that there is a possibility of not reaching an agreement, but I believe that an agreement will be reached." He indicated that in this sense there is a greater possibility of success because, during the tripartite meetings which have been held up to now, a common language has been created due to the information which originated from the definitive plans for the construction of the Brazilian-Paraguyan Itaipu dam.

He indicated that he could not foresee a foreign ministers meeting because there is a current "constructive process of rationalization." Nevertheless, he admitted that in the event a meeting became necessary, it would be held in Asuncion and it would have to originate in the three countries.

AZEREDO COMMENTS ON BOLIVIA-CHILE BREAK

PY210116Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2150 GMT 20 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpt] Brasilia, 20 Mar--The Brazilian foreign minister, Antonio Azeredo da Silveira, asserted here today that Brazil defends the "sovereign right" of maintaining or not maintaining diplomatic relations with any one country, thus referring to Bolivia's decision to sever diplomatic links with Chile. In remarks to a group of reporters, Azeredo da Silveira made it clear that Brazil naturally desires relations between countries "to be as fraternal as possible."

He recalled that "we were very happy" when Presidents Hugo Banzer and Augusto Pinochet, of Bolivia and Chile respectively, met for the first time in Brasilia on the occasion of President Geisel's assuming the presidency in March 1974.

PINOCHET RECEIVES LETTER FROM BOLIVIA'S PANZER

PY201625Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1614 GMT 20 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 20 Mar--President Augusto Pinochet today received a personal letter from Bolivian President Hugo Banzer.

The information was given by General Pinochet himself, who showed reporters in Government House the envelope containing the letter.

Bolivia broke diplomatic relations with Chile last Saturday after negotiations to find an outlet to the sea had failed.

DEFENSE MINISTER COMMENTS ON BREAK IN RELATIONS WITH BOLIVIA

PA210242Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1752 GMT 20 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 20 Mar (EFE)--The Bolivian decision to break relations with Chile came as a surprise and the reasons for it have not been determined, said Chilean National Defense Minister Herrman Brady here today.

"We believe," the minister said, "that there is no reason to justify such a step," and added that while Bolivia was announcing a break in relations, in Santiago, Chileans and Bolivians were signing a tariff and transportation study between the two countries.

The official Peruvian news agency published Brady's statements today. The minister was interviewed on the Peruvian-Chilean border after his meeting with Peruvian Prime Minister, War Minister and Army Commander Gen Oscar Molina.

Brady said that his government had received the break in relations calmly and soberly, "and awaits further events to reveal the reasons for this break."

Regarding the future of the three-nation meeting between the Peruvian, Chilean and Bolivian armed forces, Gen Oscar Molina said that, "I do not know if they will continue. We must wait and see."

General Molina and General Brady said that their meeting is one of several to improve relations between the Chilean and Peruvian armed forces and peoples. The two emphasized that excellent cordial relations exist between the armies of the two nations and expressed their desire to improve them even further in the future.

VENEZUELAN ENVOY TO HANDLE BOLIVIAN AFFAIRS

PY202056Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Enrique Aizpurua, Venezuelan ambassador to Chile, officially reported to the Foreign Ministry that from this date his diplomatic mission will handle Bolivian matters after Bolivia unilaterally broke diplomatic relations with Chile.

With regard to Chile, the Chilean Foreign Ministry has not yet reported which country will be in charge of Chilean affairs in La Paz. [words indistinct] The Bolivian consul in Santiago, (Milton Delpini Cataldo), will continue in Santiago.

It was also reported that the Chilean charges d'affaires in La Paz, (Fernando Coutiné), has returned to Santiago and has already reported to Foreign Ministry officials.

The Bolivian charges d'affaires, (Agustin Sales), delivered to Chilean Deputy Foreign Minister Gen Enrique Valdez the official note of his withdrawal as the highest Bolivian representative in Chile just before he departed for Bolivia.

The other members of the Bolivian Embassy will leave next Friday.

OAS DELEGATE REGRETS BOLIVIAN SEVERING OF RELATIONS

PY201938Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpt] During an interview with this station, Maria Eugenia Oyarzun, Chilean ambassador to the OAS, said that the Bolivian decision to sever diplomatic relations with Chile caused sadness within the OAS because there was no reason to take such drastic action.

[begin Oyarzun recording] Naturally, the announcement made by Bolivia to sever diplomatic relations with Chile was received with sadness in all diplomatic circles, because there was a good contact, a bridge, which was functioning relatively well. The breaking of relations between Latin American countries does not help the Latin American cause in any way. On the contrary, the problems which may arise between two countries [passage indistinct] since (?Bolivia) is not the only country in conflict with another country. There are other countries which also have problems with their neighbors [words indistinct].

The ideal is to have a united America and that all problems be solved through dialog and not (?obstructing dialog). [end recording]

Ambassador Maria Eugenia Oyarzun added that the president of the OAS Permanent Council has been officially informed of all the details of the severing of relations by the Chilean Foreign Ministry.

U.S. PROXY EXPECTS FAVORABLE REPLY IN LETELIER CASE

PY211350Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 21 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--U.S. proxy Alfredo Etcheberry has reported that he foresees a favorable answer to the request submitted to the Chilean Government by the U.S. courts regarding the alleged Chileans involved in the Orlando Letelier crime.

He stated that U.S. federal judge Eugene Propper held a meeting with Judge Juana Gonzalez, (?who) submitted new details about the case.

Etcheberry asserted that Judge Propper will not hold any meetings with officials outside the judicial branch or with those in charge of the investigation of the assassination of Orlando Letelier.

He added that Propper arrived in Santiago on Saturday and that he will stay here 3 more days.

LEIGH SAYS ENDING STATE OF SIEGE CORRECT MOVE

PY181453Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0441 GMT 18 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 17 Mar--Gen Gustavo Leigh, member of the Chilean Government junta, stated here today that the lifting of the state of siege in the country was a "positive step."

The commander of military aviation said that the measure "is a positive step toward normalization and toward the consolidation of an institutionalization system which will permit further advance."

The state of siege was lifted by President August Pinochet on 9 March after having been in force for 4 and 1/2 years.

Leigh added that it is obvious that this was a beneficial decision, since "it opens doors which were closed" and that "it has to be recognized that there is progress in Chile from a (?domestic) point of view, not as fast as some people would like, but undeniable progress."

Referring to the curfew, which is still in force, he then said that "in my very personal opinion I believe that the curfew has no purpose or objective today, after 4 years."

ARGENTINA'S LAMI DOZO ARRIVES FOR CELEBRATION

PY202100Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1544 GMT 20 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Punta Arenas, Chile, 20 Mar--Maj Gen Basilio Lami Dozo, Argentine Air Force secretary general, arrived in Punta Arenas to attend the anniversary celebration of the Chilean Air Force tomorrow.

Lami Dozo, immediate aide of Lt Gen Orlando Ramon Agosti, commander in chief of the Argentine Air Force, stated at the regional intendency:

"I am bringing the greetings of the commander in chief of the Argentine Air Force to Gen Gustavo Leigh.

Regarding friendship ties between the two countries, he stated that "Chile and Argentina were born of the same mother. We have been side by side since independence; history has united us forever."

General Lami Dozo, who arrived on 18 March with his wife, added: "Each time I cross the Andes I recall the effort and sacrifice of the liberator's army."

LIBERAL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE TO VISIT PUERTO RICO

PA202011Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, presidential candidate of the Liberal Party, will go to San Juan, Puerto Rico, on Wednesday. Before departing, the candidate will issue an answer to Conservative Party candidate Belisario Betancur on outlining his campaign platform. Turbay Ayala is not expected to return from Puerto Rico until Monday of next week to continue his campaign.

MINISTER OPENS URANIUM COMPANY, URGES END OF FUEL SUBSIDIES

PA202010Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Mar 78 PA

[Text] The Lopez Michelsen administration today recommended to the next administration that it eliminate the policy of subsidizing fuel and adopt realistic prices for gasoline. The statement was made here today by Mines and Energy Minister Eduardo Gaitan Duran in a speech at the inauguration of the Colombian Uranium Company [Compania Colombiana de Uranio--COLURANIO] which started operations with 27 million pesos of capital. The minister said the next administration should set realistic prices for gasoline in order to bring it closer to the international market price, which is about 20 pesos per gallon at present. He also said that in 20 years Colombia should be producing electric energy from uranium in nuclear power plants.

NEW NATIONALIST MOVEMENT ESTABLISHED

PA201238Y Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 16 Mar 78 p 24-A PA

[Text] A new movement was created in the country today in the wake of the commemoration of another anniversary of the insurrection of the commoners. It is called the "Commoners' Movement" [Movimiento Comunero] and was created in order to promote the consolidation of the masses in a common front.

The "Commoners' Movement" is a nationalistic, highly patriotic movement and does not have foreign affiliations. The founders of the movement have not been members of any of the existing political parties or groups in Colombia.

Among the members of its provisional national committee are persons such as Saturnino Sepulveda, priest and sociologist; Adalberto Carvajal, teacher and union lawyer; Victor Felix Pastrana, peasant leader; and Ricardo Rojas, teacher, as well as others who lead the workers that live in poor neighborhoods and who are experienced in the social and political fields. The organization operates by mobilizing small groups in villages and neighborhoods which meet to study their own problems, seeking immediate as well as long-term solutions.

AFP: ARMY FIRES ON RIOTING STUDENTS, TEACHERS

PA172046Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1959 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Barrancabermeja, Colombia, 17 Mar (AFP)--It was revealed in official circles that an undetermined number of students and teachers were shot today in clashes with the army during a demonstration of striking government teachers.

Military Denies Shootings

PA172202Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2133 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 17 Mar (AFP)--Military circles here have denied a report of a clash between students and the army in Barrancabermeja, western Colombia, in which it was said that several had been wounded. The military based their information on the report of General Rafael Samudio, the local brigade commander, to the effect that there were skirmishes between striking students and teachers and the troops but these were not armed clashes.

According to initial reports, an unspecified number of civilians sustained gunshot wounds and a church was occupied. According to military sources, there is complete calm in Barrancabermeja.

It is recalled that 180,000 government teachers went on strike today in Colombia to demand salary increases and the abrogation of the educators' code issued by the government in 1977.

In connection with the strike, the executive branch repeated that public demonstrations are forbidden in the country under the state of siege.

Bishop Condemns Army 'Violence'

PA201724Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1547 GMT 20 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 20 Mar (EFE)--Barrancabermeja Bishop Msgr Bernardo Arango Henao today harshly criticized the military forces, indicating that "they have chosen to use violence."

Msgr Arango Henao referred to Friday's violent disturbances in Barrancabermeja, Santader Department, during which the military troops struck some 100 demonstrators with their rifle butts.

The bishop said that army personnel, in an action harshly condemned by the Catholic Church, entered the Barrancabermeja cathedral and beat parents, teachers and students with their weapons.

During Friday's disturbances, which arose from protests against the adoption of academic measures in Barrancabermeja, priest Gabriel Ojeda was seriously injured when he was beaten in the street by army soldiers. Arango Henao blamed Lt Col Harry Diaz Rodriguez, mayor of the petroleum port, for the violent disturbances in which about 50 persons were injured.

M-19 MOVEMENT CONFIRMS PARTICIPATION IN GUERRILLA ATTACKS

PA202010Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Mar 78 PA

[Text] The M-19 Movement today officially confirmed that it has taken part in a series of terrorist attacks in various Colombian cities in the past 2 months in conjunction with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] and the National Liberation Army [ELN]. The movement, which said that it was the armed hand of the National Popular Alliance, said that one of the most outstanding guerrilla attacks was the one staged against Villa Hermosa in eastern Llanos by the FARC. It added that together with the ELN, it seized several [words indistinct] in different cities in order to harangue the people against the elections.

The M-19, which kidnaped and killed union leader Jose Raquel Mercado, reappeared today asking for the resignation of the leftist presidential candidates. The seditious movement stated the need for the presidential candidates of communism and other leftist organizations to withdraw their names in order to facilitate unity with other extremist forces and to proclaim a single candidate to face the candidates of the traditional parties on 4 June.

In a leaflet delivered to this station today, the M-19 stated that if the left goes to the presidential elections divided, it will suffer yet another resounding defeat.

GUERRILLAS ATTACK TOWN OF JUAN JOSE, KILL POLICEMAN

PA202012Y Gobota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Early this morning about 70 guerrillas attacked the town of Juan Jose, Monte Libano, looting stores and killing police agent Jose Raul Zapata Monsalve and wounding police aide Agustin Ibarra Henao. The guerrillas, who took advantage of the fact that the festival of the town's patron saint is being celebrated, approached Juan Jose and attacked the police post with 20 men. The members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia to whom the attack is attributed, looted stores and made off with cash, food and medicine. Lt Col Eduardo Pinilla Mendoza, commander of the police in Cordoba, disclosed a few minutes ago that the body of the deceased policeman has been brought by helicopter to Monte Libano. He said a fuller report on the incident will be given this afternoon.

MILITARY FORCES PREPARING MAJOR ANTIGUERRILLA OFFENSIVE

PA2012407 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 19 Mar (EFE)--Colombian military forces are preparing a large-scale offensive against guerrilla groups operating in the country, it was revealed today. Defense Ministry sources indicated that the plan would be similar to that conducted in 1974 in the mountains of Andri, in which the guerrilla brothers Manual and Antonio Vasquez Castano and Spanish priest Domingo Lain were killed.

It appears that the government intelligence services have detected a process of unification between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN).

This year guerrilla groups have attacked government and private offices and have occupied three towns after bloody clashes that resulted in several casualties.

BRIEFS

REFINERY LOAN--The Andean Development Corporation [CAF] has loaned Colombia $38 million to finance a refinery in Cartagena which will process Venezuelan petroleum and serve as one of the most important cornerstones of integration between the two nations. The loan is part of a $61 million loan for all CAF member countries. Bolivia received $182,000, Ecuador $9.5 million, Peru $23 million and Venezuela $347,000. [Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA]

BULGARIA TO ATTEND FAIR--Through its envoys in Colombia, Bulgaria has announced that it will participate in the next international fair in Bogota from 15 to 30 July with a machinery display. [Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Mar 78 PA]

TWO PARTIES REJOIN CONSTITUTIONALIST FRONT

PA162113Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 16 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt] The Ecuadorean Conservative Party [PCE] has gone back to its original positions by rejoining the National Constitutionalist Front [FNC]. The PCE's decision was announced during a lunch given by Col Rafael Armijos Valdivieso in honor of candidate Sisto Duran Ballen. Armijos had to react to and abide by the strong support given to the former [Quito] mayor by most PCE provincial boards. For his part, Duran said this was a landmark in his candidacy because the PCE's presence restores the FNC's unity and the cohesion of its sectors on a nationwide level. At the same time, the Popular Patriotic Party [PPP] announced that it is rejoining the constitutionalist sector, thereby bringing back to 10 the number of movements and parties supporting the former mayor. The oldest of the presidential candidates expressed optimism in view of the cohesion that has been reached, stating for the first time that the FNC will win in the first round of the elections.

Duran told Radio Quito: [begin recording] I felt that the meeting held at noon today will be one of the most decisive landmarks in my candidacy because the PCE's return to the FNC means the restoration of the front's unity. That is to say, this will not mean work in parallel, but work together as had been planned when the front was created and when no candidate was under consideration. This will mean greater unity on a nationwide level, better coordination in each one of the provinces, where each one of the parties and groups comprising the front will work under a single central office. To this must be added the significant and simultaneous incorporation of an acceptance of the PPP into the front today, which means that 7 parties and 3 political groups, that is, 10 groups now support the FNC's candidates. We expect other important political groups to give us the same kind of support in the next few days. I believe this will make possible a more active campaign, which in the next few days will take on greater force and great intensity, as the citizenry will realize in due time.

[Question] Architect, does this mean that your running mate will be from the conservative sector?

[Answer] My running mate may come from any of the 10 groups comprising the front or even from outside it because this was the proposal initially made with the acceptance of all parties, including the PCE, as stated today. Similarly, later on, in the government, we will select the best men regardless of what group they are from. The vice presidential candidate will be selected from any of the 10 groups or even outside them.

CFP, POPULAR DEMOCRACY PRESENT THEIR PLATFORM

PA170314Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 16 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpts] The Concentration of Popular Forces (CFP) and Popular Democracy outlined their campaign platform, which the coalition's highland Campaign Manager Julio Cesar Trujillo disclosed:

[begin Trujillo recording] This platform contains the objectives of building a free society in the sense that in it all Ecuadoreans will effectively enjoy basic human rights and that they will have the social, economic and cultural means to exercise these rights. In such a society, there must be no discrimination against men for religious, ideological, or political reasons. There must be respect for a variety of ideas. It must also be a just society, an egalitarian society in which privileges and all systems or oppression of man by man have disappeared. These are objectives with which all Ecuadoreans can agree. The alliance seeks these goals through ways defined in its platform. [end recording]

RADIO EDITORIAL SCORES U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

FY201912Y Asuncion HOY in Spanish 20 Mar 78 p 12 PY

[Text of editorial broadcast by Radio Chaco Boreal and published in HOY as an open letter]

[Text] The Voice of America reported on Saturday 18 March at 2000 that the OAS Human Rights Commission has made an appeal to the Paraguayan Government to end the state of siege and begin to guarantee human rights.

The OAS Commission, in a report to the members of the OAS, accused the Paraguayan Government of torturing political prisoners and of arresting many persons in disregard of their rights.

This commission also reported that it suspects, although it cannot confirm, that many political prisoners have disappeared or are dead. The Human Rights Commission also asserted that the Paraguayan Government has denied freedom to detainees and that it has persecuted the Catholic Church.

We do not know what President Carter is trying to cover up. These things have not happened here but do take place nowadays in the United States.

It is easy for a powerful nation to judge the procedures of other nations, even though it does not basically follow any of the examples it is trying to impose upon us.

Where is there more racial discrimination than in the United States?

Where are human rights of blacks more oppressed?

Why is Carter accusing nations such as ours or such as Argentina, Chile and Uruguay, which are defending themselves from the claws of international communism, while gracefully permitting Cuba to interfere in the affairs of other nations?

How much more bossing are we--I am referring to Latin America--going to tolerate for a bit of aid at such a high cost?

We believe that the best thing the United States could do for the people of Latin America is to no longer interfere in our governments, as if we were a nation of puppets, in disregard of the so well known human rights.

Why is it that, they do not put pressure on puppet Marshal Doctor Idi Amin Dada and Emperor Bokassa I?

Why is Carter not demanding that these savage governments, savage in the real sense of the word, comply with human rights and not allow them to eat their own people?

Money and force are not the only ways to achieve goodwill. Much more can be accomplished through persuasion and by showing other governments that there is no discrimination towards friendly nations and that: I do as I say. What do you think?

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORS RESIGN--The executive branch has accepted the resignations of the ambassadors to Italy and Egypt, Luis Martinez Miltos, and to Colombia, Anibal Mezquita Vera. [Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 18 Mar 78 p 10 PY]

FINANCE MINISTER DENIES IMF INTERFERENCE IN ECONOMY

PA210335Y Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 11 Mar 78 p 3 PA

[Text] Economy and Finance Minister Gen Alcibiades Saenz Barsallo said that the International Monetary Fund [IMF] does not control or supervise the Peruvian economy and any statement to that effect is completely false.

He also revealed that the support of international private banks has been obtained, especially of those in Western countries, and that this is a very definite step toward solving the economic crisis.

General Saenz Barsallo's statements were made at the international Jorge Chavez Airport shortly before he departed for Huancavelica in his capacity as supervisory minister for that department.

Referring to the IMF delegation headed by Linda Koenig which came to Lima, General Saenz Barsallo said that its visit was routine. "Talks with the IMF delegation concluded in the normal manner, and we have no unsolved problems with that organization," he said. He explained that the IMF formerly had a permanent representative in Peru, just as the International Development Bank and other organizations have at present, but that now the IMF makes periodic visits instead.

"This is the reason for their visits," he added. "They do not, as it has been claimed, come to control and supervise us. This is absolutely false."

Regarding the visits made by Peruvian delegations to the United States, Japan and Europe, he said that they were a positive step and had served to obtain the support of international banks.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS REINSTATEMENT OF HUNGER STRIKERS

PA201516Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1428 GMT 20 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 20 Mar (AFP)--It was officially announced here today that 78 workers who had been on a hunger strike for the past 51 days have been reinstated in their jobs by order of the Peruvian Government. The resolution, which was made in light of the "approaching holy week," also points out that the trials of these strikers and the criminal records resulting from these trials will be rendered null and void "as soon as their strike action ends."

Two days ago 27 workers addressed a letter to President Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez giving notice that today, Monday, they would stop taking the liquids that keep them alive. This group is a part of the 200 workers who late last January seized several Catholic churches and began staging a hunger strike to demand restoration to the jobs they had lost for participating in a general strike on 19 July 1977. Some 5,000 labor leaders were dismissed on that occasion. Eventually, the police evacuated the churches and transferred the strikers to hospitals or police stations.

In the communique on the amnesty and reinstatement of these workers, the president stresses "the need for national unity" but warns that this decision "will not set a precedent or endorse future actions of force or pressure."

PEREZ DISCUSSES OIL SALES, POLITICAL ASYLUM POLICY

PA2014462 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 12 Mar 78 p 1-D PA

[Excerpts] San Carlos, 11 Mar--President of the Republic Carlos Andres Perez held a news conference in one of the major hotels of this city and discussed, in particular, the visit of U.S. President Jimmy Carter to Venezuela, the case of the political refugees in our embassy in Cuba and the criticism that the opposition has made of his message to congress.

Responding to a question concerning President Carter's forthcoming trip to Venezuela and the possibility of a government-to-government sale of hydrocarbons, the president of the republic said:

In the annual message that I addressed to the Congress of the republic yesterday, I complied with my duty of giving Venezuelans an objective and realistic explanation of the Venezuelan oil situation. And I said that there is nothing to fear even if this year and next year we have to face a small decrease in the goal for oil exports of 2.2 million barrels per day set for the nation in the V plan.

Today I can add something to what I said in Congress, and it is that oil exports for the month of March are completely normal. We are selling the same amount we sold during March of last year, and perhaps we will even sell a little more in order to compensate for the months of January and February, when sales dropped considerably.

There are possibilities for a government-to-government sale not only with the United States but also with other governments. We have already made a business deal between the Soviet Government and the Venezuelan Government. It is possible that we will carry out a direct government-to-government transaction with the U.S. Government. We could also carry out a similar type of transaction with Canada. In other words, many opportunities are being opened, and we will have to study them in the immediate future.

There are no problems in Venezuela's oil relations, in the relations between the nationalized industry, the United States and the transnational companies. It is the Venezuelan State which prepares the programs and which makes the proposals and decisions on the price of the oil we sell. In fact, as the newsman pointed out, our problem is directly related to heavy oil and not to medium and light oils, since the latter types of oil are scarce and will become increasingly more scarce. We must develop our capacity to find markets for our heavy oil. In fact, we are already transforming our refineries. Refining processes are already being changed in order to refine heavy oils and to obtain from them high-grade derivatives that will be easily marketable abroad.

Referring to the situation of the refugees in the Venezuelan Embassy in Cuba, the president said: Venezuela's position regarding political asylum is very clear and precise. We provide asylum, protect the right of asylum and secure the departure of the refugees. We face these problems in several countries. We face the same problem in Chile, in Nicaragua and in Cuba. I do not remember at this moment in what other countries we have this problem, but the Venezuelan position has not changed and will not change.

A newsman observed that the opposition has rejected the statistical reports announced by the president in his message and has alleged that in fiscal expenditures alone the government has spent more than 200 billion bolivares in the past few years.

The president replied: I advise that journalist to read my message in today's newspapers. He will find that it takes up many columns because I dedicated several pages to the debt issue and I demonstrated that it is a necessary and justified debt. I said we had an easier path. We could have brought foreign companies here to build an iron and steel plant, an aluminum plant, the Zulia iron and steel plant and many other projects that the state is carrying out. But is this in line with the interest of Venezuela? We could have stopped the nationalization of oil and iron, thus avoiding a 5 billion bolivares debt. But is this in the interest of the Venezuelan State, of Venezuelan democracy, of Venezuela's true sovereignty? I explained all this in my message.

It is an exaggeration and a lie to say that we have spent 200 billion bolivares. Oil revenues have not amounted to 200 billion bolivares. At this moment I do not have the exact amount but it is only a little above 100 billion bolivares. If I had continued to sell the same amount of oil that was being sold here in 1973, 3.4 million barrels daily, we would have obtained a large amount of dollars which would have allowed us to carry out all those plans without acquiring a debt. But is not the oil under the ground worth more where it is so that we can sell it in the future at a higher price rather than now? This was another of the questions that I asked the Venezuelans in my message. So there is no room for doubt. What we have is a very large amount of statistics and data that justify what we are doing with the country's money.

ARMED FORCES TO GUARANTEE PEACE DURING ELECTIONS

PA201605Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Defense Minister Gen Fernando Paredes Bello has said that the Venezuelan Armed Forces will guarantee security and peace in the forthcoming electoral process. The minister said that the new law on obligatory military service is not discriminatory and that it covers citizens up to 45 years of age. He said that the law is currently in Congress. He added that the Defense Ministry does not plan to acquire new equipment for the time being.

TWO MEXICAN TERRORISTS GRANTED POLITICAL ASYLUM

PA181517Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 18 Mar 78 PA

[Text] The Mexican newspaper OVACIONES has reported that two alleged Mexican terrorists arrived in Venezuela on Thursday as political asylees. The newspaper said that Jose Luis Bravo and Ernestina de Bravo secretly requested political asylum at the Venezuelan Embassy in Mexico on 14 March. It added that they stayed at the Venezuelan Embassy until Thursday, when they left for Caracas. The couple presumably participated in terrorist actions in the city of Oaxaca, where five bombs exploded. Ten bombs were deactivated. They also participated in the placement of bombs in Guadalajara.

SEABED ACCORD REACHED WITH NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

PA201552Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Venezuela and the Netherlands Antilles have reached an agreement on the delimitation of the continental shelf between the two countries, Prime Minister [name indistinct] said in the Hague. He said that the agreement will be signed in [name indistinct] on 31 March. (?Van Agt) said that the delimitation of marine and submarine areas between the Netherlands Antilles and Venezuela has been a very serious matter because of mineral exploitation on the continental shelf. He said that it was important to establish which country had jurisdiction over specific areas. He added that the issue has now been resolved.

MARIO SOARES MEETS WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ-PORTILLO

FL171337Y Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 17 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City--Portuguese Prime Minister Mario Soares yesterday held talks with the Mexican president, several political leaders and government officials, prior to his departure for the Dominican Republic. A delegation of 13 Socialist and national democratic leaders is accompanying Soares in his trip to the Dominican Republic. After meeting with the Mexicans, Soares declared yesterday that the Latin American nations should adopt some form of democratic socialism. Soares said that there is a great difference between communism and democratic socialism, as there also is between democratic socialism and capitalism. According to the Portuguese prime minister, the best system for the Latin American peoples is not capitalism or communism but democratic socialism. Mario Soares is also secretary general of Portugal's Socialist Party. He added that freedom and democracy should always go hand in hand.

Soares will visit five Latin American countries for the purpose of obtaining information and establishing contacts with political parties.

5,000 PERSONS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST OIL, GAS SALE TO U.S.

PA172352Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1218 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Mar (EFE)--Approximately 5,000 persons demonstrated in Mexico City today to protest the manner in which the Mexican Government manages the exploitation of the country's natural resources, particularly energy. The demonstration was staged by the National Front for the Protection of Natural Resources, composed of more than 20 leftist groups. After a 1-km parade the demonstrators rallied at a downtown park of Mexico City, where they questioned the government's oil and gas exploitation policy.

Herberto Castillo, leader of the Mexican Workers Party, was one of the speakers at the rally. He came out against the "massive and indiscriminate" exploitation of those resources by Mexican petroleum [PEMEX]. He said that the government's policy will not only exhaust the energy resources, but will also increase Mexico's dependence on the United States. He charged that certain officials in the present administration are in favor of an indiscriminate sale of oil and gas to the United States to lift the country out of the present economic crisis.

The demonstrators chanted protests against the government and PEMEX and demanded an energy policy that would benefit the neglected members of the populace. They opposed the sale of oil and gas to the United States, which they accused of pressuring Mexico to obtain these fuels at a lower cost. It had been announced that more than 100,000 persons would participate in the demonstration. However, this number was cut down by the cold and steady rain that had been falling in Mexico City since dawn.

The organizers of the rally said, nevertheless, that it is more important to "awaken the national conscience for the protection of energy resources than it is to have a large number of demonstrators." With this rally, the National Front for the Protection of Natural Resources culminated its "national campaign" staged in favor of a "more rational exploitation of energy resources," 2 days before the 50th anniversary of Mexico's oil expropriation.

TORRIJOS BOOK ON STRUGGLE FOR CANAL PUBLISHED

PA201851Y Panama City Circuito RPC in Spanish 1720 GMT 20 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The National Culture Institute (INAC) will be in charge of the distribution of the book La Quinta Frontera, written by Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera and which was published by the Central American University publishing house (EDUCA) in San Jose, Costa Rica. La Quinta Frontera deals with Panama's national and international campaign for the approval and ratification of the canal treaties. The introduction of the book was written by Colombian writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez. It includes many photographs. The book is an intense testimony of Panama's lengthy struggle to recover its sovereignty, written in the plain language of its most prominent defender and spokesman.

AMBASSADOR TO U.S. RETURNS, COMMENTS ON CANAL

PA181929Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Mar 78 PA

[Special report from Washington by Diana Arosemena--presumably recorded]

[Text] Gabriel Lewis Galindo, Panamanian ambassador to the United States, and his legal adviser, Ricardo (Bilonic) Paredes, returned to Panama early this morning at the request of Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos to participate in the very important meeting which General Torrijos will hold with his government team concerning the ratification of the neutrality treaty.

Ambassador Lewis, before leaving the United States and being besieged by television, press and other communications media representatives, said the following: Our government has declared radio silence because, in international politics, very often the best word is the one that is not spoken. General Torrijos and President Carter, before the television cameras and with the world as a witness, designed a suit of clothing which replaced the colonial cloak that covers 1,442 square km of our land. This cloak was created in 1903 by a Frenchman who claimed to represent Panama and by then U.S. Secretary of State Hay, a well-known colonialist and expansionist figure.

President Carter more closely approaches the sense of morality and dignity of his people than some government spokesman. What Senator DeConcini added to the neutrality treaty and what he said during his speech yesterday has wounded the deepest feelings of almost 2 million Panamanians.

I pray to God that in the scale of values of our people, 32 [as heard] will be the number that will inspire us to continue fighting until we achieve our ideal. Panama is a small country, but it is a nation that is large in pride and dignity and it will never be a land of eunuchs. Latin America is awakening. We have all been humiliated 32 times over.

COSTA RICAN, NICARAGUAN PRESIDENTS COMMENT ON RATIFICATION

PA172130Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Costa Rican President Daniel Oduber has stated that the ratification of the Panama Canal neutrality treaty by the U.S. Senate was a struggle of all America and that the United States has shown that it is possible to discuss any hemispheric problem on an equal footing.

[Question by unidentified interviewer--begin recording] Here with us is the president of the Republic of Costa Rica, Daniel Oduber Quiros, who will speak to us about the approval of the Panama Canal treaty today. [as heard] Don Daniel, what do you think about the approval of this treaty?

[Answer] Look, Marcia, it has been such a long struggle--as far as I can remember, at least 16 years--dating back to when I first assumed the office of foreign minister of Costa Rica. Since then we have waged what I would call a hemispheric struggle along with the Panamanian people and all its government representatives so Panama could recover its rights over the canal. I still do not know in depth the amendments that I have been told would be added to the treaty. However, if this whole set of concepts, this whole set of legal provisions, is acceptable to the Panamsnian people, I would say that a struggle of all of America has been won and that the United States has been able to show the world that it is possible for a large and a small nation to negotiate on an equal footing on the American continent. The approval of the treaty has a profound meaning. In the few days that I have left in office, I will make this known to all the people, groups and countries whom I asked to be patient for many years in order to negotiate and draw up a treaty that marks the beginning of a new era for the Republic of Panama.

[Question] Don Daniel, what effects do you think the approval of this treaty will have on U.S. relations with the Latin American countries?

[Answer] The most important thing is that President Carter has demonstrated that an American president can believe in fraternal relations on an equal footing with the nations of the American continent. Many times as a government leader and politician throughout all the years that I have been engaged in these activities, I came to doubt the good faith of the U.S. Government leaders as far as their relationship with Latin America is concerned. However, in the specific case of President Carter, since he was elected I realized that Latin America meant something to him and during the times that I have talked to him and other officials of his administration, I have reached the conclusion that Latin America has a lot to expect from the United States under Jimmy Carter's rule. [end recording]

In the meantime, Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza today came out in favor of the ratification of the neutrality pact in Washington yesterday. President Somoza said it was a step forward toward international equality.

[Question by another unidentified interviewer--begin recording] What meaning does the ratification of the Torrijos-Carter canal treaties have for you and for the small and weak nations?

[Answer] Well, (?aware) that there is international law, that we live according to treaties and that legal power has greater value than force, the world has come to recognize the interests of nations, whether large and powerful or small. I think this is a step toward international equality.

[Interviewer] That is right! [end recording]

INDEPENDENT LAWYERS EXPRESS CONCERN OVER TREATY AMENDMENTS

PA180150Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Text] The Independent Lawyers Movement today expressed what it termed deep concern over the approval of some amendments, understandings and reservations to the neutrality treaty, especially the approval of the reservation by Senators Dennis DeConcini and Sam Nunn, which they consider to be more harmful to the interests of Panama.

WORKERS CENTRAL REJECTS TREATY AMENDMENTS, RESERVATIONS

PA190318Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 18 Mar 78 pp 32, 20 PA

[Article by Mario Martinez P.]

[Excerpts] Several unions in Panama and the Canal Zone have expressed concern over the ratification of the neutrality treaty with the inclusion of certain amendments and reservations which curtail the gains achieved by the people of Panama.

At the same time, the National Central of Panamanian Workers [CNTP] recommended that "the unity of all forces which support the [revolutionary] process be strengthened around the great anti-imperialist front." In a statement to the media yesterday, the CNTP expressed "unrestricted support for Gen Omar Torrijos and the reaffirmation of our revolutionary position." It urged its members and all progressive sectors of Panama "to seek international economic and technical support and to massively participate in the upcoming elections for popular power."

The CNTP issued a statement yesterday expressing "its most vigorous rejection of the U.S. Senate maneuvers which curtail essential gains of the Panamanian nation." According to the statement, the labor organization, one of Panama's largest, rejected the so-called amendments, reservations and understandings of the neutrality treaty.

The document, which was signed by the plenum of the CNTP executive secretariat, made certain recommendations to its members and asked them to "close ranks" in view of the present situation. It also encouraged its members to demand that the U.S. Government faithfully comply with the treaties approved by the Panamanians. It made clear that it is necessary to avoid desperation and "imperialist" provocations. Similarly, it requested support for Gen Omar Torrijos and the process he heads.

Regarding the position to be followed by CNTP members, it called for "the rejection of any attempt by the U.S. Government to perpetuate the presence of its soldiers in our territory."

The reaction of the different labor organizations is in regard to certain last minute amendments or reservations to the neutrality treaty ratified by U.S. senators on Thursday. According to the Panamanians, the amendments or reservations curtail in practice the hopes for national liberation to recover the territory described as the Canal Zone. The CNTP statement notes that the amendments and reservations to the neutrality treaty "are for imposing conditions on our people and government with the preconceived purpose of perpetuating the presence of murderous troops in the canal strip, the colonial and neocolonial enclave and everything that goes with it.

CRITICA DISCUSSES EXCHANGE BETWEEN CARTER, TORRIJOS

PA171851Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 17 Mar 78 p 4 PA

["Bona Fide" column by Camilo O. Perez: "Something To Remember"]

[Text] We have read the letter that President Carter sent to the Panamanian chief of government on the 15th and also the latter's reply to the president of the United States of America.

Both letters should be viewed from a historic perspective, not only now, when opinions are being heard regarding the initial ratification of one of the treaties, but after it is all over and the notes are exchanged as scheduled.

President Carter's letter states that neither the amendments nor the reservations that the Senate makes affect the nature and content of what has been agreed upon or the Carter-Torrijos Memorandum of Understanding. However, this statement calls for a serious analysis because Mr Carter's word does not seem to be definitive if we consider the constitutional structure of that country.

However, the Panamanian chief of government voices his concern over what is happening and notes that he will wait for the outcome of the Panama Canal treaty before he makes a specific statement on the U.S. Senate's position.

That is correct and it is also the best commonsense solution. In other words, the appropriate thing to do now is to study the effect of the reservations and amendments. It will be necessary to discuss their form and content and then draw up a reply and fashion a position based on an objective analysis.

Care must be taken as to the reply because while it is true that Mr Carter contends that the observations made by the Senate (that is, its reservations or amendments) are sheer individual stands of the various senators which, if approved, become decisions of the entire body, it is also true that those senatorial conditions are intended to appease the emotional worries of the Americans who do not want the treaties to be approved.

The intelligent thing to do is to wait until after the analysis is made and then adopt a final position. There can be no other strategy right now. We have to carry out the role of guide that some other intellectuals cannot play because they lack the connections with the mass media.

Juggling in U.S. politics has gone to the extreme of "behind-the-scenes" arrangements. President Carter exercised his executive power and one of the senators denounced the buying of consciences in the Senate. But, that is their problem and not Panama's problem.

However, let it not come as a surprise if there is a "Cartergate" sometime in the future and it results in the dethroning of an idol who, hailing from a peanut plantation, reached the White House, claiming that his strength lay precisely in that: not having ever worked in Washington, D.C. before.

MATUTINO PRAISES CALMNESS OF PANAMANIANS

PA172012Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 17 Mar 78 p 4-A PA

[Editorial: "The Initial Victory"]

[Text] After a long, dramatic wait, saturated with enormous expectation, the U.S. Senate ratified the neutrality treaty by a small margin. This is the first of the documents making up the juridical complex that will regulate relations between the United States and Panama.

This event, which has held the world's attention, has had two important protagonists: the Panamanian people and the U.S. Senate. Two men personify those protagonists: Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera, representing Panama, and President Jimmy Carter, whose spirit of justice has prevailed over the U.S. Senate's attitude.

Now, after the voting's culminating point, it would be worth analyzing the behavior of both the Senate of that great northern nation and of our people, whose size has not prevented them--under our present harsh circumstances--from growing until they have become the equals of the largest nation on earth.

Our people, who matured while waiting and were able to truly appreciate their own value amid their suffering, showed at all times, and particularly during the final hours of yesterday's debate, that calmness is the invincible weapon of those who are truly strong.

In effect Panamanians have remained impassive in the face of repeated attempts to modify the treaty's original text (amendments) and the approval of a Senate formula expressing the desire (reservation) that U.S. troops remain in our land beyond 2000. This constituted the best and most dignified response to the predictions and the tendentious statements that Panama's enemies at home and abroad kept making for the sole purpose of irritating the people with these predictions and commentaries and making them lose their calmness and throw overboard the achievements made after 75 years of struggle.

Their plot failed. Those psychological weapons never achieved their sinister goals. In an almost unanimous action, Panama avoided the danger and maintained the equilibrium demanded by circumstances.

As regards the U.S. Senate, it must be acknowledged that the senators of both tendencies maintained at all times the democratic tone traditionally attributed to the U.S. legislative branch.

Concerning the state in which the neutrality treaty has emerged following the debates to which it was subjected, it is worth noting that none of the amendments that might have modified the original text was approved. Those which were accepted simply include what was mentioned in the joint declaration made by General Torrijos and President Carter after the treaties were signed. Regarding the reservations, Panama can rest assured that its interests will be fully guaranteed by a government team whose chief said the following in his historic response to President Carter: "Any reservation tarnishing our national dignity, distorting or changing the objectives of the treaty or aimed at preventing the effective exercise of Panamanian sovereignty over its entire territory, the return of the canal or the military evacuation on 31 December 1999 will be unacceptable for Panama."

This document once again justifies the people's trust in him who from the beginning of his leadership has stressed that he is not looking for "a treaty" but for "the treaty" that suits Panama, the treaty that will safeguard its loftiest interests, achieve its full sovereignty and truly honor its much-offended dignity. These objectives will be achieved at the end of the current process, of which the ratification of the neutrality treaty is a firm, essential and highly promising step.

BRIEFS

NATIONAL BANK LOANS--The National Bank of Panama has increased its outstanding loan balance by $230 million as compared to 1972. This is the result of the expansion of development activities over the past 8 years. The total of outstanding loans was $290.8 million in July 1977, which represents a remarkable increase in credit granted for agricultural, livestock and industrial activities, as well as loans to the government sector for development projects. [Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA]

COSTA RICA

WARRANT ISSUED FOR ROBERT VESCO'S ARREST

PA201947Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Official sources have reported that border posts, ports, customs offices and other exit points of Costa Rica have been put on the alert to prevent American financier Robert Visco from trying to leave the country. This is the siutation in view of the warrant for his arrest and trial issued by the second arraigning court in a suit filed by Carlos Rechnitz. Therefore, the conclusion has been drawn that Vesco will try to leave the country.

This is the first time that such a legal measure has been taken against Vesco in Costa Rica. A group of lawyers has been exerting pressure for Vesco's arrest to prevent him from leaving the country.

SPECIAL POLICE TO BE TRAINED IN RIOT CONTROL

PA181432Y San Jose Cadena de Emisoras Columbia in Spanish 1220 GMT 18 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The next Costa Rican administration led by Rodrigo Carazo will leave the responsibility for national security in the hands of a new corps which will specialize in riot control. The task will be carried out by the new antiriot police corps instead of the Military Police Corps. The name of the antiriot police will be the Special Services Police. Colonel Umana, leader of the Free Costa Rica Movement, will direct all police corps under the Carazo administration.

CENTRAL BANK ANNOUNCES 1978 BUDGET FIGURES

PA172233Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Text] This morning the Central Bank issued a report announcing that the government's general budget for 1978 is 4,683,500,000 colones. Of this amount, 3,811,500,000 will be obtained through direct taxes and the rest, 872 million, from a special budget from public investment bonds, political debt bonds, internal debt bonds and foreign loans. Most of the money, the Central Bank says, will be obtained from revenues producing 875 million colones, use taxes for 535 million, sales taxes for 430 million and import taxes which will produce 355 million.

Some 81.4 percent of the budget will come from direct taxes and 18.6 percent from bonds and foreign loans. The budget will be distributed in the following manner: 36 percent or 1.489 billion colones for education; 40 million, the lowest amount appropriated to a ministry, will go to the Foreign Relations Ministry, in addition, 622.6 million is for the Public Works and Transport Ministry; 233 million for health and 787 million for the Finance Ministry. According to the report, the government will spend 15.1 percent of the budget on infrastructure projects.

EL SALVADOR

SAN SALVADOR HIT BY ANOTHER BUSINESS DISTRICT FIRE

PA210316Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2302 GMT 20 Mar 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Another fire occurred in San Salvador today at 1618 (2218 GMT) in the capital's business district.

The fire has destoryed several small businesses and is threatening the "Admiral" distributorship. Traffic has been suspended in the area affected by the fire, increasing the congestion. This fire is another of the many which have been set since 25 December last year.

BRIEFS

WORKERS TO SAUDI ARABIA--According to Ministry of Labor sources, the ministry plans to send the first group of workers to Saudi Arabia in April. It was also reported that more than (?1,000) workers will comprise the first contingent. [San Salvador Radio Cadena YSLK in Spanish 1720 GMT 16 Mar 78 PA]

GUATEMALA

MINISTER DISCLAIMS KNOWLEDGE OF C.A. SUMMIT

PA210232Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1905 GMT 20 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 20 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Guatemalan Foreign Minister Adolfo Molina Orantes today stated that he had no knowledge of a meeting of Central American chiefs of state in the near future. "I have no knowledge of any preparations being made for a meeting of the chiefs of state," the foreign minister said. He added that it would be appropriate if such a meeting were held, as there are important problems of common interest which could be solved through the personal exchange of opinions of the chiefs of state.

Molina Orantes recalled that a regional summit meeting which was to have been held in Managua a few months ago was canceled because of the illness of Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza.Debayle.

The last meeting of the five Central American chiefs of state was held in Guatemala at the end of October. It was an informal meeting on the occasion of the inauguration of the International Fair (INTERFER).

The Nicaraguan president announced last week that a new summit of Central American chiefs of state was being prepared.

DCG DEMANDS ELECTORAL REORGANIZATION

PA201616Y Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 14 Mar 78 pp 1, 2 PA

[Text] The Guatemalan Christian Democratic Party (DCG) will not participate in any elections in Guatemala if the electoral system is not thoroughly reorganized.

This statement was made by the party's secretary general, Vinicio Cerezo, shortly after Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia and Francisco Villagran Kremer of the broad front were proclaimed president and vice president, respectively, by the Guatemalan Congress.

Cerezo Arevalo said that the decision was made by the party's leadership "when Guatemalans were patently shown the defects and shortcomings of the present electoral system, which does not guarantee honest elections." For this reason, his party abstained from the second round elections and did not support either Lucas or Peralta Azurdia, he added.

The DCG deputies went to Congress but did not participate in the session; they merely acted as observers.

On the other hand, DCG presidential candidate Gen Ricardo Peralta Mendez last week endorsed National Liberation Movement (MLN) candidate Col Enrique Peralta Azurdia.

The DCG announced it will undertake specific political activities directed at proposing a total reorganization of the electoral system, the condition for its participation in any future elections.

Cerezo Arevalo pointed out that he will hold talks with other political sectors to unite efforts to seek a reorganization of the Guatemalan electoral system and the establishment of means to consolidate a truly democratic system.

HONDURAS

HONDURAN-SALVADORAN BORDER REPORTED CALM

PA201653Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1506 GMT 20 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Teguicigalpa, 20 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The demilitarized zone along the Honduran-Salvadoran border is quiet and there has been no incident there for the past few months. This was confirmed to the Radio America news staff today by Lt Col Leonidas Torres Arias, chief of the military intelligence department (G-2).

The officer added that there has been close but not personal contact between the general staffs of the Salvadoran and Honduran armies.

OAS military observers stationed in the area since August 1976 coordinate contacts between the military commands of both countries. These OAS observers arrived at the request of both governments whose armies in July 1976 were at the point of a military confrontation similar to that which separated them in 1969.

Honduran military intelligence in this way denied rumors here about a planned meeting between Honduran and Salvadoran military chiefs at some point on the border.

COFFEEGROWERS LOSE $1.2 MILLION TO COFFEE RUST

PA200356Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2116 GMT 19 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 19 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--It was reported here today that the coffeegrowers in northern Honduras have lost $1.2 million this year to "coffee rust." Coffee-growing regions in San Pedro Sula, Cortes, Omoa and Choloma are the ones infected by "coffee rust." These regions are located in an area close to 3,000 manzanas in size in which a rust eradication process is being carried out.

Honduran authorities have invested close to $500,000 to combat "coffee rust." In addition, the International Regional Organization against Plant and Animal Diseases (OIRSA) has given its advice and support.

Until now, the disease has been controlled by thinning out tree cover, clearing the ground, pruning and treating the beans with hot water between 80 and 100 degrees centigrade.

BRIEFS

FOREIGN DEBT REPORT--Tegucigalpa, 15 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--A Central Bank report revealed today that Honduras' foreign debt amounts to 1.16 billion lempiras ($580 million). [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1657 GMT 15 Mar 78 PA]

NICARAGUA

UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES MEET NATIONAL GUARD STAFF

PA201900Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1720 GMT 20 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] On Saturday authorities of the National University met with members of the National Guard staff to reiterate that at no time did students fire on military patrols on 27 February. On that day, two students were killed.

The deans of the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua [UNAM] in Managua and Vice Rector Julian Corrales met at the offices of the 1st Armored Battalion with Gen Jose Somoza, Gen Samuel Genie, chief of the security office, and Col Aquiles Aranda, chief of the legal and public relations office.

Julian Corrales said that the military men listened to the university authorities' account of the National Guard's attack on the university. The university authorities gave the members of the National Guard staff a list of the students who are still being held in various jails of the country. Gen Samuel Genie promised that each of the cases of the arrested students will be investigated and that they will be released when their innocence has been proved.

GOVERNMENT FINES RADIO NEWSMAN 1,000 CORDOBAS

PA161800Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 16 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Excerpt] Government repression of the information media increased yesterday when the radio office fined Radio Continente newsman Rolando Avendana Sandino 1,000 cordobas for broadcasting a communique released by the Managua Radio Newsmen's Union which stated that martial law was not being correctly implemented.

BRIEFS

TRADE WITH CENTRAL AMERICA--Managua, 13 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaragua's trade deficit with Central America increased in 1977 from $22 million to $30 million despite the 13-percent increase in trade with countries of the region. The Nicaraguan export promotion committee today reported that there was a 40-percent increase in total exports outside Central America during 1977. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0115 GMT 14 Mar 78 PA]

JOURNALISTS UNION CREATED--Yesterday more than 200 newsmen founded the Union of Nicaraguan Journalists in Granada, where they held a congress. The union members approved a declaration of principles whereby they commit themselves to fight for free journalism in a free country. Dr Danilo Aguirre Solis, assistant editor of LA PRENSA, was chosen union president. [Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 13 Mar 78 PA] [SERCANO Network]

COMMENTARY SCORES U.S. SENATE ACTION ON CANAL TREATY

FL201915Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Mar 78 FL

[Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry combatants political information program commentary]

[Text] The U.S. Government today is trying to repeat with Panama what it imposed on Cuba 77 years ago when the first constitution of the pseudorepublic was proclaimed. At that time, and as a result of the Yankee military intervention, Washington inserted in the 1901 Cuban constitution the ominous Platt Amendent and the ill-named treaty of reciprocity, which left Cuba premanently subjected to North American tutelage.

The U.S. Senate has approved amendments and reservations to the permanent neutrality treaty which must be agreed upon with Panama with regard to the canal. Actually, the amendments and reservations approved by the Senate are designed to give the United States a permanent and unilateral right of intervention in the isthmian nation whenever it considers it appropriate. The United States is trying to give itself the right for its warships to have priority transit through the interoceanic route, to intervene in Panama even with the use of military force, and to defend the canal in case of attack by third countries.

The North American objective is to preclude the Panamanian state's full right to sovereignty over the canal and the legitimate right of the Panamanian Government and people to exercise the control and security of the canal. This is shown in one of the so-called reservations which the Yankee Senate approved for inclusion in the canal treaty. The reservation grants the United States the right to employ its troops to defend the canal's neutrality after the year 2000, when control of the canal will pass to Panama. The Yankee manuever simply seeks to legalize the right to violate Panamanian sovereignty and to decide in the isthmian homeland that which only and exclusively is the right of Panamanians.

Gen Omar Torrijos, in a letter to Jimmy Carter, stated that Panama would not accept amendments or reservations which offend national dignity or words, wrongly placed commas, or ambigious phrases suggesting or expressing an occupation in perpetuity disguised as neutrality or intervention in the country's domestic affairs.

Obviously, the U.S. Government is trying to condition the Panamanian nation to the exercise of sovereignty [by the United States] on a strip of its territory. The imperialist demagogy is being exhibited, to top it off, by an amendment approved by the Senate indicating that, in case of internal problems in Panama, the United States would have the right to intervene militarily. That is what it did in Cuba with the Platt Amendment. The U.S. Senate also demands negotiations between the United States and Panama to establish U.S. military bases on isthmian soil once the canal is transferred to Panama.

Cuba--which after 30 years of war against Spanish colonialism saw its independence thwarted by the Yankee intervention in 1898--is still enduring, against the will of its people and its socialist state, the disgraceful presence of a North American base on our soil. The Carter administration is now trying to repeat against the Panamanian people what McKinley did against Cuba more than three-quarters of a century ago.

The facts show that historically the U.S. Government cares little for the legitimate rights of peoples, integrity of nations and respect for other countries and states.

CENTRAL ARMY HOLDS SIXTH PARTY MEETING

FL202059Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 20 Mar 78 FL

[Text] The Central Army's sixth PCC meeting was held at that command on the topic "communists' tasks in fulfilling the accords of the First PCC Congress related to raising the Revolutionary Armed Forces--FAR--combat readiness and capability." The activity was presided over by Col Jose Milian Pino, chief of the aforementioned army. Lt Col Santiago Hernandez, deputy for political work, read the central report. The document analyzed work undertaken by the PCC in support of the combat readiness of the units and in strenghtening the operational and combat raining of the troops. Lt Col Hernandez Caceres called on the participants to deeply value the work projects and effectively influence the missions assigned to the commands.

Central Army Chief of General Staff Lt Col Raciel Falcon Ramirez gave a special report on the combat readiness of the units in this command. He discussed the methods and objectives of troop training and the organization and direction of activities that must be kept in mind. He stressed the duties which correspond to the various command organizations and especially to the officers, sergeants and soldiers.

Communists took an active part at the event. They went into detail on some subjects and contributed their experiences on the party work in the units. In making the closing remarks, Col Milian Pino stated that the central report and the presentations recounted the essence of the positive experiences and deficiencies in the work. He labeled the PCC meeting positive and called for the systematization of the savings, care and maintenance policy for the technical and combat equipment, and to support initiative in solving material problems which are within the reach of our military organizations.

SECOND GROUP OF TEACHING BRIGADE LEAVES FOR ANGOLA

FL202135Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2002 GMT 20 Mar 78 FL

[Text] At Jose Marti International Airport Cuban Education Minister Jose R. Fernandez, PCC Central Committee member, bade farewell this morning to the second group of the Che Guevara internationalist teaching detachment which left for Angola. The young teachers of the teaching detachment left for that fraternal African country happy and full of optimism and with the will to comply with the pledge of honor made with Fidel, the PCC and the Cuban people.

In the next few days the rest of the internationalist teacher group of the contingent named for the heroic guerrilla Ernesto Che Guevara will leave for that fraternal Angolan Republic to offer their knowledge in any province of the country. Upon bidding farewell to the youth gathering of Cuban teacher vanguards, the education minister wished them the greatest success in carrying out their honorable mission.

CUBA, PRC SIGN 1978 TRADE PROTOCOL

FL201759Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Mar 78 FL

[Text] As a result of talks between governmental delegations of the Republic of Cuba and People's Republic of China, a protocol has been signed for 1978 trade. The Chinese delegation was received by Foreign Trade Minister Marcelo Fernandez. The documents were signed by Manuel Estefania and Wang Jun-sheng, foreign trade vice ministers of the two countries.

GARCIA FRIAS CHAIRS ENVIRONMENT MEETING

FL201910Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Mar 78 FL

[Text] In Camaguey PCC Central Committee Politburo member Guillermo Garcia Frias has chaired a regular session of the National Scientific Council on Wildlife Reservations and Hunting Preserves. Also attending the session were Camaguey Province party First Secretary Raul Curbelo and Facundo Martinez Vaillant, both PCC Central Committee members.

The meeting studied questions related to protection, development and enrichment of Cuban flora and fauna along with the importance of adequate habitats for them. In several sessions Guillermo Garcia critically examined current work in plant and animal protection and reiterated the need to establish measures to legally broaden the actions of the aforementioned scientific council in keeping with the country's requirements.

NATIONAL SUGAR HARVEST REVIEW MEETING HELD

FL181756Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 17 Mar 78 FL

[Text] The need to intensify all sugarcane harvest work in order to overcome as soon as possible the present delays in sugar production were reiterated by the participants in the third national review meeting of the special sugar harvest emulation held in Ciego de Avila. The review meeting announced that 119 sugar mills in the country had completed their quotas achieved in industrial efficiency. A total of 97 sugar mills achieved absolute sugar yield of over 86 percent, while 51 mills surpassed 88 percent.

Cienfuegos Province was declared the best in absolute sugar yield, quality, fuel and cost savings. For their parts Matanzas and Pinar del Rio won first place in sugar production and less time lost respectively.

The third national sugar harvest review meeting announced that the best mills by categories were Antonio Sanchez of Cienfuegos, Junio Reyez Cairo of Matanzas, and Ciro Redondo of Ciego de Avila. The best sugarcane gathering and processing centers and refineries were also announced at the meeting along with the best canecutters, truck drivers, and brigade and combine, sugarcane hoist, and loading operators.

MEETING OF CEMA GEOLOGICAL EXPERTS CONCLUDES

FL201951Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Mar 78 FL

[Text] In Havana city the meeting of experts from CEMA countries on increasing geological prospecting work in Cuban territory has ended with the signing of a protocol for the period 1981-1990. Among the principal accords agreed to by the delegations are the establishment of a program to carry out joint work in geological surveys and the search for solid minerals in the most promising zones in the country. At the same time they drew up a scientific and technical cooperation agreement to help our country determine its mineral potentials.

CEMA MEETING ON CANCER BEGINS IN HAVANA

FL202152Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2003 GMT 20 Mar 78 FL

[Text] The fifth meeting of the CEMA plenipotentiaries council of the complex No 3 program, which deals with new malignant growths, began today at the Habana Libre Hotel ambassadors hall. Delegations from the Soviet Union, Mongolia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR and Cuba are participating at the scientific meeting. Prof Zoilo Marinello, who heads the Cuban representation welcomed the visitors, while the opening remarks were given by Public Health Vice Minister Jose Otero Molina. The Public Health Ministry--MINSAP--official stated that the struggle against cancer in our country is a task of all the people. In this regard he stated that more than 1 million women in the age of risk category have taken early detection tests for cervical-uterine cancer.

CPSU DELEGATION VISITS PCC CENTRAL COMMITTEE OFFICES

FL171420Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1402 GMT 17 Mar 78 FL

[Text] A delegation headed by (Genya Zhoyevieyev), deputy of the CPSU Science and Educational Institutions Department, has visited the main offices of the PCC Central Committee. The delegation was received by Jose Felipe Carneado, chief of the science, culture and educational centers of the PCC and member of its Central Committee. The delegation is also composed of Nikolay (Gibarbich), CPSU secretary in the province of Kalinin, and Valeriy (Ginanov), an official of the CPSU Central Committee.

NICARO NICKEL PROJECT STUDIES ANNOUNCED

FL202024Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Mar 78 FL

[Text] More than 300 studies were handed in on developing technological documentation and carrying out fundamental projects to renovate the Cmdr Rene Ramos Latour mining-metallurgical combine in Nicaro, Holguin Province. Close to 300 Soviet detection and programming specialists, several USSR mining-metallurgical research institutes and Cuban specialists worked on the studies.

Rafael Ferrera, vice director of investments for nickel industry in Nicaro, stated that at the moment the Soviet and Cuban specialists are working on drafting complementary projects. He stated that among the projects completed are some very complex ones, such as the complete new amonium recovery plant presently under construction, the first stage of which should be in production by the end of 1980.

ROMANIAN CULTURAL DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR VISIT

FL201843Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1710 GMT 20 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Wilfredo Rodriguez, first vice president of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with Peoples--ICAP--has received Ion Botar, secretary of the Romanian Institute for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries [IRRCS], at Jose Marti International Airport. Also in the Romanian delegation is (Gheorghe Vannu), chief of the IRRCS relations office. They are visiting Cuba at the invitation of the ICAP.

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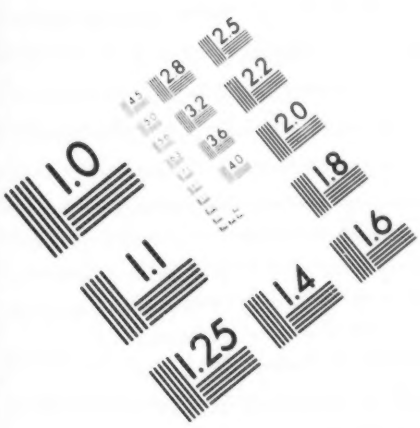

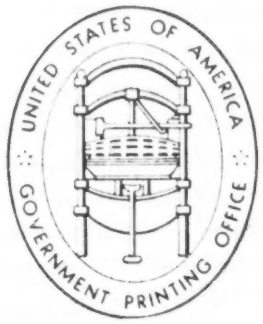

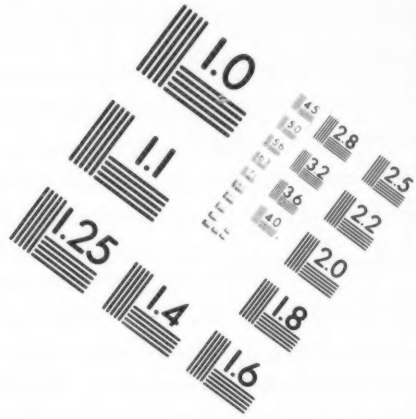

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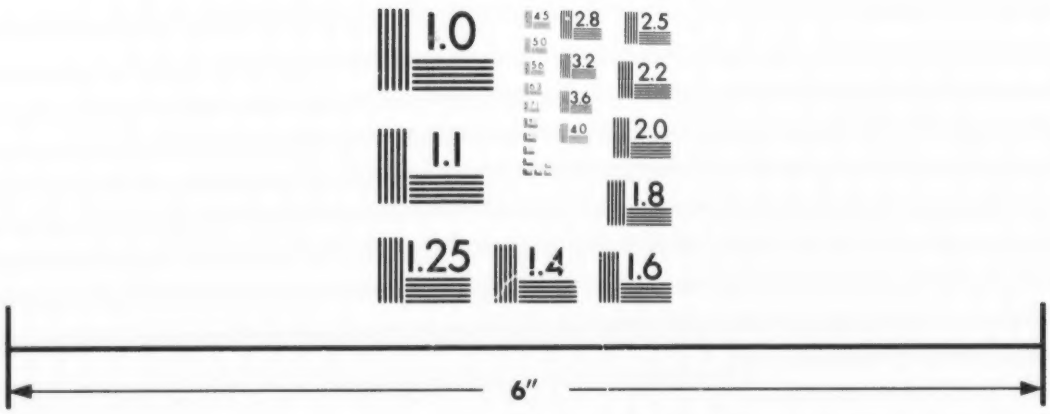

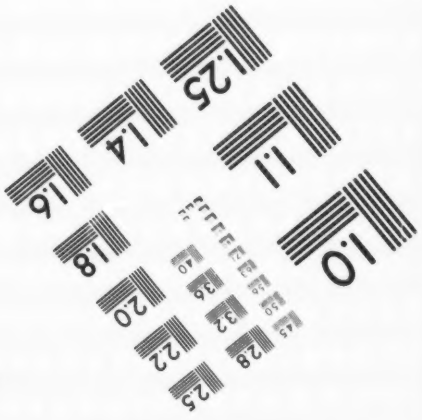

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